

Arizona 2003

by Dave Thorpe

It never seems like I have enough time to explore the places I want to, but when I look back on some of the photos taken over the last year, I realize that life is not so bad. Here are some memories preserved.



Above: The Harcuvar Mountains. Dave Derrick is first to drop this mountainside shaft while Bob Schroth and Dave Thorpe (white helmet) assist. Like most shafts in this area, it ended in breakdown at around the 150-foot level. This trip followed the February Tucson show. Next year's trip will explore a new area.

Left: Another shaft, explored to the 200-foot level yielded a metal canteen appearing to be early 1900's. ATVs and dirt bikes are now becoming standard equipment in getting out to the remote shafts.



In April, Bob Schroth, Dave Thorpe, and Roger Becksted did some extensive reconnaissance work in the Constellation district near Wickenburg. At this site, a cage was discovered topside. It is shown on the left with its spring-loaded safety dog mechanism still intact. Cages are quite heavy, yet we are not certain if this one remains on site. Some of the sheet metal panels from the roof of the building were still marked from the Wickenburg supply house that sold them around 1900. Some of these panels appear to have been removed by collectors.



Travel north from Phoenix and take the Table Mesa exit west for a punishing 20 miles of jeep road, and you will be at the Tip Top Mine. It is a steep incline shaft. An 8-foot bailing bucket sits at the 200 foot level. The PMI rope is becoming a real mess for Dave Thorpe as he lays it down. Bob Schroth was soon to follow, while Steve stayed topside and shot this photo.



Various excavated plateaus mark the hillside of Jerome, Arizona. This photo shows the "500-foot" level with various old buildings and a barely legible "No Trespassing" sign. It is rumored that Phelps Dodge keeps old artifacts in these old structures, one of which was the shower facility, or "dry-house". We are fairly certain that no one has entered these buildings in recent years. Photo by Blue Boelter.



**Future possibilities
abound at the
Binghamton Mine
near Mayer, AZ. Sev-
eral miles of rough
jeep road lead to this
100 year old copper
mine. The main
shaft seen here is
flooded at 175 ft.
Could there be a drift
before that?**

**Dave Thorpe does a
stone drop into this
nicely collared shaft.**

